

REMARKS:

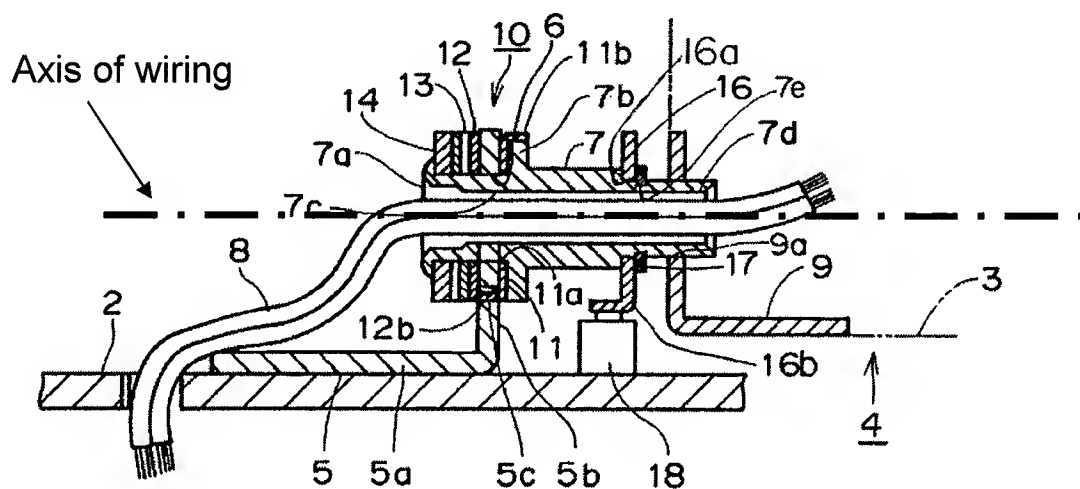
This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 13, 2010. Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application and claims 12-19 have been canceled. The Office Action has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended each of claims 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9 to clarify the structural relationship of elements that the Examiner noted in the Office Action such that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are overcome.

The Office Action has further rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,018,847 to Lu (hereinafter "Lu"). The Office Action has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,580 to Katoh (hereinafter "Katoh"). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,368 to Chen et al. (hereinafter "Chen") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,981 to Kuivas et al. (hereinafter "Kuivas"). Additionally, the Office Action has rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-297574A. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has not rejected claim 10 and indicates that it would be given favorable consideration if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has added new claim 20 which is previously allowable claim 10 rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Further, the amendments made with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 have been incorporated into independent claim 20. Accordingly, independent claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Lu noting that the intended use of receiving wiring was given no patentable weight. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to further recite that "each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, at least one of which is configured for receiving wiring for electrically connecting the first and second parts, wherein wiring enters the

hinge assembly along a first axis and exits the hinge assembly along a second axis that is different than the first axis[.]” Lu does not disclose, nor is Lu cited to disclose a hinge assembly configured to allow wiring to pass therethrough as claimed. Applicant notes that in the rejection of claim 2, Katoh was cited with figure 2 (reproduced below with the wiring axis added by Applicant for illustration) illustrating wiring passing though the hinge.



Katoh, Figure 2 (axis of wiring added for illustration)

Applicant notes that Katoh does not teach or suggest wiring entering the hinge assembly along a first axis and exiting the hinge along a second axis that is different than the first axis as claimed. Figure 17 of the present application (reproduced below) depicts an example embodiment of wiring entering and exiting the hinge along two different axes as claimed.

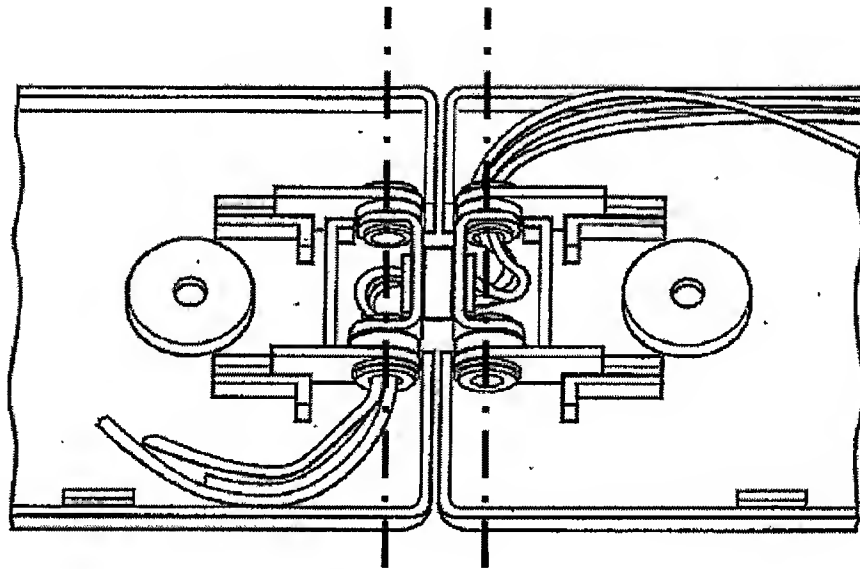


Figure 17 of the present application (axes of wiring added for illustration)

In view of the above, none of the cited art, taken alone or in combination, teaches the elements of independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2 through 10 each depend from claim 1 and are similarly in condition for allowance. Similar amendments have been made to independent claim 11 such that the arguments presented above apply equally to the rejection of claim 11. Therefore, claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

New claims 21 through 27 added herein by amendment recite wiring electrically connecting a first portion of an electronic device with a second portion of the electronic device, “wherein the wiring enters the first hinge from the first portion of the electronic device through the through hole of the first hinge along a first wiring axis, and enters the second portion of the electronic device from the second hinge through the through hole of the second hinge along a second wiring axis that is different than the first wiring axis.” As noted above with regard to claims 1 and 11, neither Lu, nor any of the other cited art teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned claimed element. Therefore, new claim 21, and the claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance.

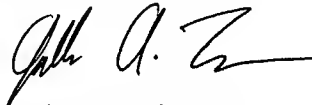
Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 11, 20, and 21, and all the claims depending therefrom (*i.e.*, Claims 2-10 and 22-26) are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

The patentability of the independent claims has been argued as set forth above and thus Applicant will not take this opportunity to argue the merits of the rejection with regard to specific dependent claims. However, Applicant does not concede that the dependent claims are not independently patentable and reserves the right to argue the patentability of dependent claims at a later date if necessary.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON July 13, 2010.